GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1213
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Per Capita Availability of Water
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans/schemes formulated and implemented to conserve water along with their present status;
(b) whether the Government is aware that the country has 18 per cent of the world"s population but has only 4 per cent of water resources is useable, if so, the details and the facts thereof;
(c) whether annual per capita availability of water is decreasing drastically and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
(d) the measures taken for making water conservation a national obsession?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
(Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d) India has more than 18 % of the world's population, but has only 4% of world's renewable water resources and 2.4% of world's land area. India receives an average rainfall of about 1170 mm which corresponds to an annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) including snowfall. There is considerable variation in rainfall both temporally and spatially. Nearly 75% of this i.e. 3000 BCM occurs during the monsoon season confined to 3 to 4 months (June to September) in a year.

The per capita average annual water availability in the country is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in the country during 2001 and 2011 is 1816 and 1545 m3/year respectively. The estimated values for 2015 and 2050 are 1340 and 1140 m3/Year respectively.
Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments. Supplementing the efforts of State Governments, Government of India has been implementing a number of schemes to conserve water are follows viz.,

i. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
ii. Ground Water Management & Regulation
iii. National Water Mission
iv. Jal Kranti Abhiyan
v. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

(i) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

PMKSY has been formulated amalgamating ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM) of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). 99 on-going irrigation projects under AIBP have been prioritised for completion by December 2019 at the cost Rs.77595 crores in a Mission mode to create an irrigation potential of 7.6 million ha.

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(ii) Ground Water Management & Regulation

Several measures have been taken up by the Central Government to conserve and replenish ground water in the Country viz.,

a) The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption.
b) This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its

regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.

c) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection)Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water. Under the CGWA guidelines, in notified areas, no permission is accorded to extract ground water through any energized means for any purpose other than drinking water. However, for non-notified areas, ground water withdrawal by industries is regulated by means of guidelines/criteria as specified as CGWA.
d) CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitle "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013 to augment ground water resources which will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose and has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

e) CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme during XII plan. Against the target of 5.26 lakh Sq. Km in priority areas, Aquifer Maps and Ground Water Management plans have been completed in 4.1 lakh sq.km by September 2016.

f) CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
(iii) National Water Mission
The Government of India has established National Water Mission (NWM) under National Action Plan on Climate Change. NWM main activities being undertaken are: baseline studies, demonstration projects, preparation of State Specific Action Plan (SSAP) for water sector, Human Resource Development & Capacity Building, training and mass awareness programmes.

(iv) Jal Kranti Abhiyan is being celebrated to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The activities/components being undertaken in the Abhiyan are: - (a) Jal Gram Yojana, (b) Development of Model Command Area, (c). Pollution abatement, (d) Mass Awareness Programme and (e) Other Activities

(v) MGNREGA: Water conservation and water harvesting works are on prime focus under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In the current financial year, 2016-17, a target of constructing 8,82,325 Farm Ponds under MGNREGA has been kept.

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